

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01586 01 OF 02 181452Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----045118 181459Z /40

O R 181417Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 466
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 1586

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, USSC, XF
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON USG PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH LEBANON

REFS: (A) STATE 69250, (B) STATE 68560

1. SUMMARY. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND UNAVAILABILITY OF MFA UNDERSECRETARY, I MET MARCH 18 WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT ABDUL-SAMAD TO URGE GOK SUPPORT FOR UNSC RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE IN SOUTH LEBANON. ABDUL-SAMAD STATED THAT QUESTION OF ASSIGNMENT OF UN FORCE TO PEACEKEEPING ROLE IN SOUTH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01586 01 OF 02 181452Z

LEBANON WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN GOK, WHICH HAS BEEN CONSULTING ON THIS MATTER WITH OTHER ARAB STATES. ENSUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS REVEALED KUWAITI RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT IDEA OF ROLE OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND PREFERENCE FOR UNSC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES WITHOUT COMPENSATING ACTION TO STABILIZE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.

END SUMMARY.

2. WITH FONMIN ILL AND UNDERSEC AT AIRPORT SINCE EARLY MORNING AWAITING DELAYED ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI, I FINALLY MADE PRESENTATION OF POINTS CONTAINED REF. A TO MUSTAFA ABDUL-SAMAD, DIRECTOR OF MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AT NOON MARCH 18. I ADDED TO THESE POINTS THE THREE ELEMENTS WHICH USG WISHED TO SEE COVERED BY A UNSC RESOLUTION AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 3 (B) OF REF. B.

3. IN RESPONSE ABDUL-SAMAD MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
A) BELIEVE THAT UNSC SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON.
B) QUESTION OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IS MATTER STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN GOK IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ARAB STATES--NO DEFINITE POSITION ADOPTED YET;
C) BELIEVE THAT OCCUPATION OF LAND WILL NEVER BE GOOD MEANS TO ACHIEVE SECURITY;
D) CURE OF PRESENT SITUATION IS TO SOLVE DEEP-ROOTED PROBLEMS IN JUST TERMS;
E) BELIEVE OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON BY ISRAELIS IS DICTATED BY EXPANSIONIST POLICIES OF ISRAEL;
F) ALTHOUGH GOK POSITION RE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE NOT YET DECIDED, BELIEVE THAT EVEN UN FORCE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IF ROOT CAUSES OF PROBLEM ARE NOT SOLVED.
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01586 01 OF 02 181452Z

G) EXPECT USG TO PLAY "ITS ROLE" IN SPITE OF JUSTIFICATIONS OFFERED BY ISRAEL FOR ITS ACTION;
H) BELIEVE THAT UNSC SHOULD NOT ADOPT A PROCEDURE THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE REWARDING ISRAEL;
I) GOK HAD REALLY HOPED US WOULD VOTE FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN UNSC DELIBERATIONS INSTEAD OF AGAINST IT, OR AT LEAST WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED LIKE BRITAIN AND CANADA. (THIS INFORMATION APPARENTLY BROADCAST OVER KUWAIT RADIO JUST PRIOR TO MY MEETING.)

4. I CONCENTRATED MY COMMENTS ON POINT (G) ABOVE, STRESSING THAT US ROLE WAS CLEAR AND OBVIOUS TO ALL AS A MEDIATOR WHOSE EFFORTS WERE DEVOTED TO PROMOTING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. I UNDERLINED THE DEEP AND EXTENSIVE COMMITMENT TO THIS EFFORT BOTH IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAD UNDERTAKEN. I EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THESE PEACE EFFORTS STIMULATED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE WERE NOT MORE BROADLY SUPPORTED IN THE ARAB WORLD.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01586 02 OF 02 181524Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 1586

EXDIS

5. RETURNING TO THE QUESTION OF SOUTH LEBANON, I
DECLARED THAT THE AIM OF OUR PROPOSAL WAS TO RESTORE THE
AUTHORITY AND CONTROL OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO
THAT AREA. I NOTED THAT SOME LEBANESE POLITICIANS HAD
DESCRIBED THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT AS THE SUBSTITUTION
OF "ISRAELI AGGRESSION" FOR "PALESTINIAN AGGRESSION."
IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE LEBANESE RESUME FULL SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THEIR TERRITORY AND I NOTED THAT THE USG WAS
PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE
LEBANESE ARMY SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A
POSITION TO ENFORCE ITS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01586 02 OF 02 181524Z

6. I EXPRESSED MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE APPARENT LIMITED

VIEW OF THE GOK ON THIS QUESTION AS DESCRIBED BY THE
POINTS MADE BY ABDUL-SAMAD. ABDUL-SAMAD HASTENED TO EXPLAIN
THAT THIS WAS IN FACT ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, SINCE
THE GOK POSITION ON A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAD NOT
YET BEEN DETERMINED. I URGED THE GOK TO CONSIDER THE
MATTER CAREFULLY AND TO SUPPORT A UNSC RESOLUTION ALONG
THE LINES OF REF. B IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE STABILIZATION
OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. ABDUL-SAMAD PROMISED
TO CONVEY MY VIEWS PROMPTLY TO HIS SUPERIORS.
MAESTRONE

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